

shores. Some of you may live to witness not merely its blissful dawn, but its meridian effulgence; to me that privilege will not be vouchsafed. My days are already in "the sere and yellow leaf;" the fresh flush of vernal budding has long since exhausted itself; the sap and vigour of summer's outbursting fullness have well-nigh gone,—leaving me dry and brittle, like a withered herb or flower at the close of autumn; the hoar frost of old age,—age prematurely old,—grim wintry old age is fast settling down upon me. But whether, under the ordination of the High and Holy One who inhabiteth eternity, my days be few or many; whether my old age be one of decrepitude or of privileged usefulness,—my best and latest thoughts will still be of India. Wherever I wander, wherever I roam—wherever I labour, wherever I rest,—my heart will be still in India. So long as I am in this tabernacle of clay I shall never cease, if permitted by a gracious Providence, to labour for the good of India; my latest breath will be spent in imploring blessings on India and its people. And when at last this frail mortal body is consigned to the silent tomb,—while I myself think that the only befitting epitaph for my tombstone would be, "Here lies Alexander Duff, by nature and practice a sinful, guilty creature, but saved by grace, through faith in the blood and righteousness of his Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ," were it by others thought desirable that any addition should be made to this sentence, I would reckon it my highest earthly honour, should I be deemed worthy of appropriating the grandly generous words, already suggested by the exuberant kindness of one of my oldest native friends, in some such form as follows:—"By profession a missionary; by his life and labours the true and constant friend of India." Pardon my weakness; nature is overcome; the gush of feeling is beyond control; amid tears of sadness I must now bid you all a solemn farewell."

### ITEMS OF GENERAL RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

**SAFETY OF DR. LIVINGSTONE.**—Many of our readers will already have the intelligence that Dr. Livingstone is still safe. Although his present mission has not been successful, we trust that at a future time his efforts may be more successful.

**MISSIONARIES IN PEKING.**—It has been stated that missionaries are excluded from the city of Peking. But this is not the case. There are now ten missionaries in Peking, carrying on the work as they have ability. These missionaries are connected with six different Missionary Societies. The Rev. W. C. Burns is for the present in Peking.

**HEALTH OF REV. DR. GUTHRIE.**—We regret to learn that the health of Dr. Guthrie is in so unsatisfactory a state, that it is considered doubtful whether he will be again able for pulpit duty. It is proposed to call a minister as assistant and successor. The charge is a collegiate one, the Rev. Dr. Hanna being the other pastor.

**DEATH OF THE EARL OF ABERDEEN.**—Recent intelligence has been received of the death of the late Earl of Aberdeen. He was long in delicate health, but was known as a decided Christian, and a promoter of all good objects. It is singular that many journals have confounded the late nobleman with his father, the Earl who at one time was Premier of England, and whose name was connected with Scottish Ecclesiastical affairs at the time of the Disruption.

**THE ENGLISH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.**—The *English Presbyterian Messenger* has an article on the statistics of Presbyterianism in England. The last census shows that there are 169,000 Scotchmen in England, of these no more than 30,000 are supposed to be connected with the Presbyterian Churches. The worshippers in the Churches connected with the three bodies of Presbyterians, representing Scottish Presbyterianism, are represented as under 60,000. It is proposed to raise in connection with the English Presbyterian Church, the